

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, FAO

SUBJECT: FAO BUDGET LEVEL 1978-79

REF: ROME 14768

1. "FRENCH PROPOSAL" AND SUGGESTED EARLY REPRESENTATION TO THE DG NEED TO BE CONSIDERED IN LIGHT GUIDELINES WE NOW FACE WITH REGARD TO PREPARATION OF BUDGETARY REQUESTS TO CONGRESS, I.E., DEVELOPMENT FROM ZERO BASE WITH JUSTIFICATION FOR ON-GOING AND NEWLY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES. AT SAME TIME WE VERY MUCH HAVE IN MIND THE FACT THAT DG SAOUMA IS PREPARING TO PRESENT 70TH COUNCIL (NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 10) WITH INDICATIVE FIGURE OF BUDGET LEVEL HE IS CONSIDERING FOR 1978-79.

2. IN FAO INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP SEPTEMBER 14 DECISION WAS TAKEN TO HAVE CURRENT ACTIVITIES EXAMINED THROUGH DETAILED SUB-PROGRAM BY SUB-PROGRAM REVIEW OF 1976-77

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PROGRAM. PURPOSE IS TO (A) IDENTIFY marginally LOW

ACTIVITIES OR THOSE NO LONGER REQUIRING FAO ATTENTION, (B) DETERMINE IF AREAS OF PRIORITY INTEREST TO US ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK AND RECEIVING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT AND (C) ASCERTAIN IF THERE ARE GAPS IN FAO'S WORK WHICH WARRANT ATTENTION.

4. COMPLETION OF THIS REVIEW, TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH NEW OR INCREASED ACTIVITIES CAN BE ACCOMMODATED BY DELETION OF LOW PRIORITY MATTERS, IS A PRE-REQUISITE TO PROVIDING DG WITH A PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF ANY SPECIFIC BUDGETARY LEVEL WHICH HE MIGHT CONSIDER SUGGESTING FOR 1978-79.

5. WE DO THINK, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN HAVING INTERESTED GENEVA GROUP REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AS YOU SUGGEST TO EXPRESS THEIR COUNTRIES GENERAL CONCERN OVER RAPIDLY INCREASING BUDGETS AND ASK HIM TO CONSIDER THIS IN PLANNING INDICATIVE LEVEL HE WILL SUGGEST TO COUNCIL. GROUP APPROPRIATELY SHOULD COMMEND HIM FOR ELIMINATING FAIRLY LARGE NUMBER OF POSTS APPROVED BY 18TH CONFERENCE AND FOR REDUCING MEETINGS AND PUBLICATIONS BY CONSIDERABLE DEGREE. GROUP ADDITIONALLY MIGHT OFFER TO PROVIDE DG WITH INFORMAL VIEWS ON ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS, ETC. WHICH IT REGARDS AS BEING OF QUESTIONABLE PRIORITY FOR CONTINUANCE.

6. OBJECTIVE OF PROPOSAL IN PARA. 5 ABOVE WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE APPROACH ON BUDGETARY ISSUE WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO US THAN TO VAST MAJORITY OF MEMBERSHIP. ANY SUCCESS WE MIGHT OBTAIN, HOWEVER, WOULD BE DIRECTLY RELATED TO WHETHER WE CAN PREPARE SIGNIFICANT LIST OF MARGINAL ACTIVITIES ON TIMELY BASIS AND OBTAIN AGREEMENT IN GENEVA GROUP ON COMMUNICATING THEM TO DIRECTOR GENERAL.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE FODAG VIEWS. ROBINSON

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